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# Capitol Views

BY WILLARD EDWARDS ✓

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1—Agents of the central intelligence agency, the nation's mysterious spy network, have been prowling Capitol hill, engaging in furtive conferences with senators, whispering to influential staff members.

Since the CIA is supposed to concern itself only with foreign espionage operations, such activity hinted at some sensational expose. Was a member of Congress, perhaps, in touch with a foreign government? Had communist agents penetrated a House or Senate committee?

An investigation permits disclosure of a more prosaic explanation—the CIA has been busy in the great American game of lobbying. It is exerting all its efforts to defeat legislation which would give its employees some basic constitutional rights.

Every devotee of espionage literature knows, of course, that a spy has no rights, constitutional or otherwise. He serves under a warning that his country will disavow him if he is caught. He is a slave to the bidding of a cold-eyed tyrannical chief, given some such code name as "M" or "K," who sends him forth to kill or be killed in the process of stealing secrets from the enemy. Only an occasional bout with some feminine temptress lightens his lonely lot.



Edwards

## Spies Abandon Right to Privacy

THIS FICTIONAL CONCEPT is not too far removed from reality. There is no question that secret agents abandon the right to personal privacy when they are hired. Government intelligence agencies compile detailed dossiers on their employees, exploring their lives from the moment of birth. The customary justification for such prying is an understandable concern about penetration by enemy agents.

The same excuse could not be offered by other government agencies but Congress found that "big brotherism" in the Johnson administration included an insatiable curiosity about the most intimate details of the lives of all federal employees, now close to 3 million in number.

Young women secretaries have been forced to reveal their sex experiences, before and after marriage, and asked what they dreamed about and whether they loved their mothers. Men applicants for employment were strapped into lie-detecting machines and similarly quizzed. The federal thirst for knowledge seemed to be concentrated on the sex habits and religious beliefs of both male and female workers.

The Senate judiciary subcommittee on constitutional rights, after a two year study, voted unanimously to report a bill protecting government employees from unwarranted intrusions on their privacy. Certain exemptions were granted the CIA in emergency cases affecting national security but the agency was obviously not satisfied. It began lobbying for a blanket exemption.

## Right to Kick Its Employees Around

SPONSORED BY MORE THAN 50 senators, the bill was brought up in the Senate this week for certain approval. Suddenly, Sen. Mike Mansfield [D., Mont.], the majority leader, postponed its consideration until Sept. 19. He conceded that the CIA had made a last-minute request for the delay. In his 24 years in Congress, he had never heard of such a demand from a federal agency, he admitted later, but he had granted it to permit the agency more time to outline its objections.

✓ Sen. Sam J. Ervin [D., N. C.], the bill's author, raged that the CIA had refused for two years to make public its objections. It only wanted, he said, "the unmitigated right to kick its employees around."

Ervin noted the testimony of one witness who had told of his experiences in seeking employment as a CIA agent. When he protested a series of "humiliating" questions during a polygraph test, the deputy chief in charge "gave me a wise smile, leaned forward, and said: 'Would you prefer that we used the thumb screws?'"

James Bond's "M" could not have phrased the official attitude more eloquently.

The Senate may pass the bill eventually, thereby protecting the great majority of government employees from prying, personal questions. But American spies, it is suggested, will never be given what Ervin called "the dignity and freedom which all other Americans enjoy."

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